

A BRIEF
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE ISLAND OF ARUBA
IN ENGLISH AND PAPIAMENTO

by

W.M. HOYER

BOEKHANDEL BETHENCOURT

Heerenstraat 16—Tel. 1919

CURACAO

1945

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The Island of Aruba is in the Caribbean Sea, north-west of Curaçao and fifteen English miles from the northern coast of Venezuela. Specifically, it is between 12°24'30" and 12°37'25" north latitude, and 69°51' and 70°3'30" longitude west of Greenwich.

Its 69.48 square miles can boast a length of 18.6 miles and a width of 5.3 miles.

Parts of the northern coast are rather sheer and high, contrasting with the flat shore line to the south. A long, narrow reef about a half-mile off shore begins near Oranjestad and ends at San Nicolas.

Several openings in the reef formations give entrance to: Horses' Bay at Oranjestad, Spanish Lagoon near Balashi, Commander's Bay near Sabaneta, and St. Nicolas Bay at the southern tip.

Various „peaks" give Santa Cruz a mountainous landscape: Yamanota (615'), Arikok (605'), and Hooiberg (540'). Kristalberg (308') is near Bushiribana. Cerro Colorado (131') provides a setting for the San Nicolas light-house.

The Ordenance of March 18, 1935, divided the Island of Aruba into four political districts: Playa, which includes the capital, Oranjestad, at Horses' Bay; Noord; Santa Cruz; and the fourth ward unites Sabaneta and San Nicolas.

Proceeding from Cerro Colorado toward Balashi, one has on his left a marine back-drop of rolling surf breaking on the reef beyond the lagoon. Near Sabaneta, Hooiberg (Haystack) can be glimpsed behind the hills Yamanota and Arikok. From Balashi one can reach Oranjestad through Frenchmen's Pass. If he then starts from Playa and heads toward Kristalberg and Bushiribana, he will have crossed the widest part of the island.

Large bluffs are to be seen in different spots. According to good authority, they are remains of slowly eroded hills.

Aruba claims some rather interesting points: Spanish Lagoon, Frenchmen's Pass, Fontein, Balashi, and Palm Beach. Of an impressive beauty is the north coast of the island with its

gigantic breakers. Here has been formed a grotto identical to the one at Hato in Curaçao.

In 1499 the Spanish navigator Alonso de Ojeda left Curaçao, bound for Santo Domingo. On August 15 he discovered a cape which he called San Roman. On the twenty-fourth of the same month he found himself in a port and huge lake, to which he gave the name of San Bartolomeo. This name was later changed to Maracaibo, honoring a rich Indian chief living near the lake. It is most probable that en route Ojeda touched Aruba: it is fairly certain that he is the island's discoverer.

A period of Spanish rule followed the discovery of the island, and after 1634 it came under the dominion of the Dutch. But Aruba never had much of a „history”. Its distance from Curaçao, the strong current between the Venezuelan coast and the island, its constant exposure to the relentless trade winds, the seas roundabout infested with pirates, — all made rapid and regular communication very difficult for sailing vessels.

During the early period of the West-Indian Company, Aruba was left to its own devices because the island produced nothing of importance. There was a Commander, appointed by the Company, governing the inhabitants. Each person was granted a plot of ground suitable for raising a few animals. In return, the licensee was obliged to render service to the Company in the way of chopping wood and taking care of livestock.

Aruba's contribution to the Company consisted principally of an annual shipment of skins, animals, and salt meat. The neglect it enjoyed right from the beginning inclined Aruba's relations toward the mainland, mostly Paraguana, rather than with its sister island of Curaçao. It is for this reason that there is a decided Spanish strain in Aruba's language and folk customs.

In the year 1701, the garrison at Aruba consisted of a Commander and four soldiers. The first Commanders and the respective years of their administrations are:

Josephus Flaccius ?—?; Johannes Bontemantel? — 1679; Josephus Flaccius 1680—1714; Willem Jansen 1714—1739; Daniel Nieuwkerk 1739—1750; Lourens Croes 1754—1756; Jan van der Biest 1756—1768; Gillis Poppe 1768—1772; Jan van der Biest 1772—1782; Harmen van der Biest 1791—1791; Jacobus Pellicorne Porrier 1791—1792; Borchard Speght 1792—1804; Johannes Craneveldt 1804—1807.

The origin of the name „Aruba” has been associated with the gold found on the island. Nevertheless, there exists no proof that the island’s discoverers found gold on their arrival. The first Spanish writers called the island Orua and Oruba. If the latter is considered as a constraction of **oro hubo** (there was gold), then it would seem that Aruba was called a land of gold — but gold was not found on the island until July, 1824. A letter that Don Juan de Ampúes, **señor** of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, sent to Carlos V in 1528 substantiates the conviction that gold had not been discovered when the island received its name. In the letter Don Juan communicated to his sovereign that the islands under his rule were rated in 1513 by Admiral Diego Colon „**por islas inútiles**”, „as islands of no worth”.

Oruba, as the Spanish writers called Aruba, is indubitably of Indian origin. It has been generally recognized that the primitive inhabitants of Aruba were of the same tribe as those who lived on the Venezuelan coast from the State of Falcon to the Bay of Yaracuy. The work entitled „**Resúmen de la Geografía de Venezuela**”, written in 1841 by Agustín Codazzi, shows the existence of an inlet in the Gulf of Maracaibo called Orubá. If these premises are accepted, then there remains no doubt of a certain relation between the two names. It is almost certain that Orubá is what the Spaniards heard the Aruban indigenes saying. Orubá must have changed during the succeeding centuries to Aruba, as Curaçao altered to Curaçao and Curazao, and Buinare or Banare changed to Bonaire. Modern writers theorize that Oruba was derived from the Carib word **oraoubao**, meaning „isle of snails”. (**ora** — snail, **cubao** — isle)

At Curaçao and Bonaire, Indian relics are few. But at Aruba they are found in abundance: clay tombs, where the corpse was placed in a squatting position; hatchets and stone hammers; a great number of enigmatic inscriptions and drawings inscribed in the ceiling and walls of caves and on huge granite blocks at Ayó, Canashito, Fontein, and various other spots.

Dr. Pedro M. Arcaya, in an interesting article, „Los Aborígenes del Estado Falcon”, declares:

„Two indigenous tribes at the time of the discovery of the territory-corresponding to the present State of Falcon (in modern Venezuela)-formed the majority of the population. They are the tribes of Caquetia and Jirajara.

„The Caquetians lived in the entire territory from Falcon and Zulia to La Vela and the Paraguana Peninsula and on the coast

east of La Vela to the Bay of Yaracuy. Caquetians lived also on the islands of Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire”.

The Indians of the three islands were certainly of the same tribe as those who previously lived on the coast. Don Juan de Ampúes, *señor* of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, wrote in 1528 that they were people of higher intelligence than the Indians of other sections, that the inhabitants of the coast and those of the three islands maintained friendly relations and visited each other frequently, and that they definitely were not of the cannibal Carib tribe.

The purest strain of the Indian population in the three islands is preserved in Aruba. Because negro slaves were introduced only in very limited numbers, racial intermixture in Aruba was almost nothing compared with the two other islands. In 1816 Aruba had 564 Indians of pure racial extraction; at Bonaire there were none; in Curaçao, very few.

Aruba had 1,732 inhabitants in 1816; 9,702 in 1900; 12,224 in 1928; by 1938 the number had increased to 28,155. With the establishment of the oil companies, Lago Oil & Transport Co. in San Nicolas and Eagle Petroleum Co. at Druifbaai, the population multiplied to 37,337 in 1943, due to the influx of persons establishing themselves on the island.

The Dutch have been in pacific possession of the islands since 1634, but from 1650 to 1654 they experienced the inimical appearance of the English against their Caribbean colonies. November 3, 1650, Parliament enacted a law prohibiting all foreign nations from transacting business with the English islands in the West Indies. English pirates were then marauding the Caribbean Sea. If it were possible that a Dutch ship had anything aboard supposed to have been taken from or destined for any English point, it was held up on the high seas and without any warning the cargo appropriated by pirates.

Finally, in 1721, Curaçao took strong measures against the buccaneers, who were ruining not only sea trade but also commerce on land. They committed all sorts of barbarities, especially on the defenseless islands of Aruba and Bonaire. The most notorious pirates were Juan Antonio Dias de la Rabbia, who laid waste to Bonaire, and Balthazar Carion, who on various occasions abducted Aruban slaves and animals and once murdered a Vice-Commander of the island. In 1726, near the Aves Islands, the Curaçao Captain Balthazar Lixraven captured the corsair Dias de la Rabbia. Shortly afterward, Carion met the fate of his brother buccaneer.

After the Norwegian mineralogist Paulus Printz examined St. Christoffelberg and other places in Curaçao in 1725, the West Indian Company commissioned him to explore Aruban minerals. If the Company had not been in such haste to recall Printz, he probably would have discovered Aruban gold. His correspondence with the Board of Directors in Amsterdam indicated clearly his belief in the existence of precious minerals in the Aruban stones that he had examined.

In 1750, the three slaves of d'Elmina, belonging to Commander Daniel Nieuwkerk, rebelled. They killed his sister with her children and two other slaves. They stole guns, all the comestibles in the Commander's house, and fled for the woods. But shortly thereafter, Nieuwkerk and his soldiers attacked the slaves, shot, and burned them.

In the seventeenth as well as the eighteenth century, the Company favored Bonaire rather than Aruba. This undoubtedly was because of the salt-works in Bonaire and its short distance from Curaçao. And, too, almost all ships coming to Curaçao stopped at Bonaire; in time of war the island was able to lend great service. After sighting a suspicious ship at sea, the Commander of Bonaire was obliged to set up smoke flares by day and fires by night on the most prominent point on the island. This was a warning signal to friendly ships beyond the horizon. In Dutch this is called **een brandaris maken**; and from this the highest hill in Bonaire gets its name: Brandaris (830').

For a long time it was prohibited for any individual to „establish” himself at Aruba and Bonaire. Up to 1754 the West-Indian Company permitted settling on the southern tip of Aruba and granted individuals enough land to rear a few animals and cultivate the soil a bit. The same year, the following sworn statement was set up for those desiring to live in Aruba:

„I, — do solemnly swear:

„I. That in coming to Aruba, I will conduct myself as a loyal citizen, obedient in everything the Commander orders, and together with the other working residents of the Honorable Company, will assist in cleaning wells; that in no manner will I set up a business or sell anything or buy from foreigners; and if I know that others have done this, I will immediately advise the Commander and also if I have knowledge of anyone with malicious intent against the island; that I can neither transfer nor sell the land that has been conceded me under restrictions but must turn it over to my descendants so that after my death it shall revert to the Honorable Company.

„2. That I may not rear animals without the consent of the Company.

„3. That if I do not comply with everything herein stated in all its ramifications, the Commander has the right to take the land away from me without formality and to dispatch me from the island”.

Until the end of the eighteenth century, the governor's residence was at Commander's Bay; but after Governor J. R. Laufner had a fort built at Horses' Bay in 1796, the Residence was transferred to that bay.

The name Horses' Bay was given because of the great facility with which horses could be loaded and unloaded there from the Spanish or Indian coast. They were mostly for the English island of Jamaica, for which destination they were trans-shipped.

In 1830, the Governor of Curaçao, Dr. I. J. Rammelman Elsevier, made a trip of inspection to Aruba. He gave a reception for the high-ranking employees and a few of the civilian inhabitants. At this function, the Commander of the island informed the Governor that, since the city located at Horses' Bay had not yet been named, it would be very agreeable for the inhabitants of Aruba if at that solemn occasion it should please H's Excellency to christen the city. It was then that the capital of Aruba received the name „Oranjestad”.

Under the heading of historical events might be placed the incident of August, 1792, when Commander Borchard Spөгt and some soldiers defended the island against a nocturnal attack from an English frigate under the command of Edward Hamilton. The frigate fled but left behind many casualties.

In July, 1824, the Governor of Curaçao, P. R. Cantzlaar, received two letters from the Commander of Aruba, announcing that gold had been found on the island in the form and state of the pieces accompanying the first letter. The Governor immediately sent his aide, Captain van Raders, charged with making an examination. August 4, the Governor himself went to Aruba, accompanied by the Government's Secretary, W. Prince, Captain H. J. Abbring, Commander of the Militia J. F. W. Gravenhorst, a sergeant, two corporals, twenty men, and two cannon.

Aruban gold was discovered in the administration of Commander Jacob Thielen at a place called Lagabai (Let Go) at Rooi Fluit. The gold benefited but a few fortunate ones, and only in the first years was there any recompense for labor

expended. Gold mining was a failure for all succeeding companies.

The first gold was found in large and small pieces along dried-up rivulets. Later there was an actual mine; the gold occasionally existed as small veins in stone formations.

Frequently it was found in chunks, called „pepitas“. In 1825, according to „De Nederlandsche West-Indische Eilanden door M. D. Teenstra“, 1836, second volume, page 215, an Aruban stave found a very large piece of gold which he brought to his master. The piece was of the size of an Edam cheese and weighed 32 lbs. 8 oz. It was sold to a Curaçao merchant for 13,000 pesos or Fls. 17,333. The chunk was exhibited and then sent, in pieces, to New-York.

The identity of the person finding the above-mentioned gold must remain unknown because from 1824 to 1834 the mineral was exploited by the Government. A chunk of Aruban gold weighing 36 lbs. was displayed in the Museum of Leiden, according to the **Economische Berichten voor het Staatsdeel Curaçao**.

The Government produced during the first three years of its exploitation 100 kilograms of gold. After 1832, the field was opened to everyone. Gold mining was again prohibited in 1854, and the concession granted to L. J. de Jong of La Haya. In 1867 a 35-year concession was given to Francisco Isola for a premium of Fls. 2,500 per year.

In 1869 the concession was held by the firm of Ricketts of New-York, who, in turn, transferred it in 1872 to the Aruba Island Gold Mining Company, Ltd. This company found it hardly worth their while, and they abandoned the workings in 1900. A new concession was granted in 1908 to the Aruba Gold Mining Company of London, who also abandoned it because of poor results.

In December, 1908, the concession was given to the Aruba Goud Maatschappij for one year. This was the only company able to show a profit. The first year it returned a 25% dividend to its stockholders. With a capital of Fls. 40,000, it made a total profit of Fls. 19,000. Because of the European war, it was not possible to secure the necessary machinery, and the company found itself obliged to suspend operations in 1916.

SOME CURACAO CITIZENS

Who Have Purchased
ARUBAN GOLD

David A. Jesurun	5,010	oz.
Elias P. Brandao	194-¼	

Manuel Romero	101
Jacob Abr. Jesurun	2,231- $\frac{1}{4}$
A. H. & J. Senior	273- $\frac{1}{2}$
Jacob Moreno	106- $\frac{3}{4}$
Jos. P. Brandao, Jr.	177- $\frac{3}{4}$
Moreno & Suares	44- $\frac{1}{2}$
E. & Morris Curiel	12- $\frac{1}{2}$
Sundry Individuals	900
Total	<hr/> 9,051- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

It can be said without exaggeration that the gulleys of Aruba have produced more than 3,000 lbs. of gold.

The gold mines were scattered all over Aruba, but the phosphate workings were concentrated near Cerro Colorado and Cerro Colebra.

Phosphate was discovered in 1874 by J. H. Water Gravenhorst, and in 1881 the mineral was exploited by the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij. In the first years of the business, the venture was highly profitable, both for the company and for the Colonial Treasury. The Government received eight guilders for each cubic meter of phosphate shipped. The Colonial Treasury received more than two million guilders up to 1895.

Because of the development of phosphate mining in Florida started in 1892 — and the consequent decrease in prices, the company soon started a losing game. The terms of its concession obligated the company to export 12,000 cubic meters per annum. In 1895 there finally came a change in the contract conditions. But an unfavorable Profit & Loss balance of Fls. 100,000 remained on the books, even with the more lenient contract.

Some of the stockholders believed that the debit balance in the Profit & Loss account was due to an error in the Company's bookkeeping. This caused some unpleasantness between several factions of the stockholders.

At any rate, the operation of the phosphate mines finally ceased, it being impossible to get out of the red.

It is doubtless true that Aruba can conduct the fishing industry on a much larger scale and under much more favorable conditions than Curaçao or Bonaire. Between Aruba and the opposite coasts of Venezuela and Colombia the sea boasts an abundance of fish not available to Curaçao or Bonaire.

The fishing boats usually ply the whole length of the island's west coast and frequent different parts of the sea between Aruba and the mainland. Oostpunt, the vicinity of the Monjes

Islands, and the sea below the coast of the Goajira Peninsula are other favorite spots.

The fishing fleets are comprised of several sorts of boats: small and large covered craft, flat-bottom dugouts of varying lengths, and *yola* (about 10 feet, with one mast and tiller).

The larger boats, of course, can stay a longer time from the home port. The small ones are confined to home waters. They leave before dawn, returning toward mid-day or early afternoon at Rancho, their anchorage. Time will very probably bring about some advances in the manner of fishing.

The most esteemed fish caught in home waters are the red snapper and the blue fish.

The deep sea has several times given up some veritable giants: barracuda that weigh from 10 to 45 pounds and range in length from 2 to 6½ feet; kingfish from 25 to 45 pounds; sailfish of 132 pounds; wahoo of 154 pounds and a length of 9 feet.

Some time ago an effort was made to ship fresh fish from Aruba to Curaçao. Although a small quantity of iced fish was brought over, regular export on a commercial scale did not seem possible.

Aruba's soil yields corn, beans, aloes, peanuts, and divi-divi.

Aruban corn is classified as „seven-week corn” or „tail corn”. There are so many varieties of beans, that it is difficult to classify them. They range from the lima to the redkidney bean.

The peanut harvests often fail because of drought, a moderate rainfall being vital for the crop.

The most important agricultural product is the aloe. Until recently, a third of Aruba's area was covered with aloe-producing plots. This branch of soil culture was of the utmost financial benefit to Aruba. Primarily, of course, for the growers, and secondly for the population in general, because aloe cutting began just at the dry season when most workers were without work or income.

But there has come a change — for the better. Aruba has begun an epoch of great industrial progress; and even though all scheduled projects have not been realized because of the War, progress is, notwithstanding, manifest in all corners of the island.

islands and the sea-birds, the coast of the Pacific Peninsula
The fishing boats are constructed of several sorts of boats
small and large covered craft, but certain specimens of varying
magnitude and size depend on level, wind, sea, moon and tides.
The larger boats of course, are stay a longer time from the
harbour, but the smaller ones are confined to near water. They
leave for the open sea, and return towards midnight or early after-
noon of the next day, but sometimes there will very probably
be a second or third voyage in the same day.
The most common fish caught in these waters are the red
fish, and the blue fish.
The red fish has several names, from the same variable colour
of its skin, but when dried it is of a brown and white in length
from 2 to 4 feet, and is found in all the waters of the
Pacific, and is the most common of the fish of the coast.
It is a very good food, and is much used by the natives,
and is also a valuable article of commerce. It is found in
great quantities in the waters of the Pacific, and is the
most common of the fish of the coast.
The blue fish is also a very good food, and is much used
by the natives, and is also a valuable article of commerce.
It is found in great quantities in the waters of the Pacific,
and is the most common of the fish of the coast.
The red fish is also a very good food, and is much used
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by the natives, and is also a valuable article of commerce.
It is found in great quantities in the waters of the Pacific,
and is the most common of the fish of the coast.

Isla di Aruba ta situá den Mar Caribe na nor-ooeste di Curaçao entre 12° 24' 30", i 12° 37' 25" latitud norte, i 69° 51' i 70° 3' 30" longitud oeste di meridiano di Greenwich, i na 15 milla ingles for di costa norte di Venezuela.

Su mayor largura ta di 30 K.M. Su mayor anchura di 8 á 9 K.M., i su superficie di 180 K.M.²

Costa norte di Aruba ta na algun lugar poco alta i recta; costa sur ta abao i na un distancia di casi un kilometro for di e costa ta haya un careda di rif smal, cu ta principia casi cerca Oranjestad i ta caba te na San Nicolas.

Entre e rifnan algun abertura ta duna entrada na siguiente bahianan: Paardenbaai cerca Oranjestad, Spaansch Lagoen, cerca Balashi, Kommandeursbaai, cerca Sabaneta i St. Nicolaasbaai cerca San Nicolas.

Pariba di Santa Cruz ta haya e cerronan: Yamanota (188 M.), Arikok (185 M.) i pabao Hooiberg (164.74 M.) Cerca Bushiribana: Kristalberg (94 M.) i cerca San Nicolas: Cerro Colorado (40 M.)

Isla di Aruba ta partí, segun Ordenanza di 18 Marzo 1935, den cuatro distrito. Promer distrito o Playa, unda ta haya capital Oranjestad na Paardenbaai; segundo Noord; tercer Santa Cruz; cuarto Sabaneta i San Nicolas.

Biniendo di Cerro Colorado pa Balashi, pasando Sabaneta ta mira, pa banda robes, lamar tras di lagun i e careda di rif. Pa banda drechi, cerca Sabaneta, ta presenta Hooiberg tras di e cerronan Yamanota i Arikok. Di Balashi ta yega Oranjestad pasando Rooi-Franes. Si sali di Playa pa Kristalberg i Bushiribana a cruza e isla den tur su anchura.

Na diferente lugar ta mira barrancanan grandísima, cu ta cerritonan anterior, di cualnan tur otro parti tabata quitá poco-poco pa awa, segun declaracion di Profesor H. Martin.

Aruba ta conta cu algun lugar mashá interesante, cu ta: Spaansch Lagoen, Rooi Frances, Fontein, Balashi i Palmbeach. Di un buniteza impresionable ta costa norte di e isla, cu su olanan gigantesca. Aquí a forma un spelonk identico cu e di Hato na Curaçao.

Despues cu e navegante spañó Alonso de Ojeda a bandona Curaçao cu destino pa Santo Domingo, el a descubri dia 15 di

Agosto 1499 un cabo, cu el a yama San Román i dia 24 di mes luna el a hayé den un puerto i un lago grandísimo, cu el a duna nomber di San Bartolomeo, cuyo nomber despues tabata cambiá pa Maracaibo, na honor di un cacique riquísimo, biba cerca di e lago. Mui probable cu den e travesía Ojeda lo a toca Aruba, i casi sigur lo por yamá descubridor di e isla.

Tanto durante e tempo despues di descubrimiento bao di dominio spañó, i despues di 1634 bao di poder holandes, nunca Aruba tabatin un propia historia. E gran distancia for di Curaçao, e corriente fuerte entre costa venezolana i e isla, e remontamento sin fin contra un viento fortísimo, i den un tempo cu lamar rondó di e islanan tabata cruzá cu frecuencia pa piratanan, a haci un comunicacion ligé i regular cu Curaçao mashá difícil pa veleronan.

Aruba tabata ya den e promé tempo di West-Indische Compagnie lagá na su mes cuenta, como e isla no tabata produci nada di importancia. Un Commandeur tabata para na cabez di habitantenan na nomber di compañía. Na cada un tabata concede un pida tera, unda e por a cria algun animal; en cambio e tabata queda obligá di presta compañía su servicio na kamento di palo i cuidamento di animalnan.

Probecho cu compañía tabata recibi di Aruba, tabata compone principalmente di un remesa anual di algun cuero, animal i carni salgá. E apartamento i descuido for di promer tempo a yuda di mes, pa Aruba a mantene mas relacion cu Costafirme, principalmente cu Paraguaná, i no cu su ruman Curaçao. Ta pa e motibo, cu na Aruba elemento spañó a influi tanto riba idioma i costumbre di poblacion.

Guarnicion na Aruba, na año 1701 tabata compone di un Commandeur i cuatro soldá. E promer Commandeurnan tabata:

Josephus Flaccius? — Johannes Bontemantel? — 1679. Josephus Flaccius 1680 — 1714. Willem Jansen 1714 — 1739. Daniel Nieuwkerk 1739 — 1750. Lourens Croes 1754 — 1756. Jan van der Biest 1756 — 1768. Gillis Poppe 1768 — 1772. Jan van der Biest 1772 — 1782. Harmen van der Biest 1791 — 1791. Jacobus Pellicorne Porrier 1791-1792. Borchard Spoght 1792 — 1804. Johannes Craneveldt 1804 — 1807.

Origen di e nomber „Aruba” semper tabata poné na relacion cu e oro, cu a haya riba e isla. Sin embargo, no tin ningun prueba cu descubridornan di e isla a haya oro na nan yegada. Den escritonan di e promer escritornan spañó e isla tabata yamá Orua i Oruba, i si considera e último nomber como un contrac-

cion di „oro hubo (tabatin oro), ta parce cu por a yama Aruba un terra di oro, pero oro no tabata descubri na e isla sino te na Julio 1824. Cu oro no tabata descubri promer cu e isla a haya su nomber, por deduci for di e carta cu na 1528 Don Juan de Ampúes, Señor di Curaçao, Aruba i Bonaire a dirigi na Carlos V, den cual e ta participa su rei, cu e islanan bao di su gobierno, ya na 1513 tabata calificá pa Almirante Diego Colon „por islas inútiles”, pa islanan sin balor.

Oruba, manera e escritornan spañó tabata yama Aruba, ta sin duda di origen indian; i si acepta, lo que di bon fuente a haya sabi, es ta, cu e habitantenan primitivo di Aruba tabata di mes tribu cu esnan bibá na costa di Venezuela, di Estado Falcon te na boca di Yaracuy, i cu segun e obra titulá „Resúmen de la Geografía de Venezuela”, skirbi na 1841 pa Agustin Codazzi, ta existi un ensenada den golfo di Maracaibo yamá Orubá, no ta queda mas duda di un cierta relacion di e dos nombenan, i ta casi sigur cu Orubá ta e nomber cu spañónan a tende for di boca di habitantenan primitivo di Aruba. Orubá lo a cambia den curso di promer siglonan na Aruba, di mes manera cu Curacao na Curaçao i Curazao, i Buinare o Banare na Bonaire. Escritornan moderno ta supone cu Oruba ta deriva di e palabra caribe „ora oubao” i ta significa „isla di cocolishi” (ora — cocolishi, oubao — isla).

Mientras cu na Curaçao i Bonaire ta haya solamente na algun lugar, señal di e indiannan primitivo, na Aruba ta hayé na abundancia: tumba trahá di klei, unda cadáver di e indian ta poné na posicion yongotá; hacha, martin di piedra; ademá, un gran número di inscripcion i dibujo grabá den techo i murayan di cueba; na blóki grandísimo di granito, di forma enigmática, na Ayó, Canashito, Fonteín i diferente otro lugar.

Tocante di habitantenan primitivo conocí di Aruba, Dr. Pedro M. Arcaya den un interesante artículo „Los Aborígenes del Estado Falcon” ta declara lo que ta sigui; „Dos nacion indigena tabata forma na tempo di descubrimiento mayoría di poblacion di e territorio, cu ta corresponde awe na Estado Falcon, es ta: nacion Caquetía i nacion Jirajara.

Caquetíanan tabata bida den tur e territorio, di limite di Falcon i Zulia te na La Vela i península di Paraguaná, i di costa oriental di La Vela te na boca di Yaracuy. Caquetíanan tabata bida tambe na islanan Curaçao, Aruba i Bonaire”.

Indianan di e tres islanan tabata sigur di e mes tribu, cu esnan cu anteriormente a biba na costa enfrente, pues Don Juan de Ampúes, Señor di Curaçao, Aruba i Bonaire na 1528 ta bisa cu nan ta hendenan di mas razon, cu indiannan di otro parti, i

cu habitantenan di costa enfrente i esnan di e tres islanan tabata mantene relacion amistosa i tabata bishita otro cu frecuencia, i cu sigur nan no tabata di tribu Caribe antropófago.

Di e poblacion indiana di e tres islanan, e di mas pura ta e raza cu a queda conservá na Aruba. Como aya no a introduci esclavo-negro, sino na cantidad mashá limitá, mezcla di raza tabata casi nada compará cu e dos otro islanan. Na Aruba tabata mencioná cu na 1816 tabatin 564 indian di raza pura; na Bonaire no tabatin ningun, na Curaçao mashá poco.

Na 1816 tabatin na Aruba 1.732 habitante; na 1900, 9.702; na 1928, 12.224; na 1938 e número a crece te na 28.155. Cu establecimiento di Compañianan petrolera „Lago Oil & Transport Co. Ltd. na San Nicolas, i „Eagle Petroleum Co”. na Druifbaai, poblacion a aumenta te na 37.337, na 1943, cu yegada di un gran numero di persona, cu a bîn establecenan na e isla.

Si for di 1634 holandesnan a queda pacíficamente na posesion di nos islanan, na 1650 te 1654 nan por a exprimenta e aparicion enemiga di inglesnan contra tur nan posesion den Mar Caribe. Dia 3 di Noviembre 1650 Parlamento a expedi un acta, prohibiendo tur nacion extranjera di haci comercio cu islanan ingles na West-Indië. Piratanan ingles tabata oruza Mar Caribe, cometiendo tur clase di injusticia. Barconan holandes tabata detené na alta mar; si nan por tabatin algun producto abordo, i por a supone, cu nan ta tumá o destiná pa cualquier punto ingles; i sin ningun forma di proceso piratanan tabata apropia nan di tur cargamento.

Tabata na 1721 cu na Curaçao a tuma medidanan fuerte contra piratahan, cu tabata ocasiona gran daño na comercio, i cu no solamente na lamar, sino na terra tabata comete tur sorto di crueldadnan, principalmente na e islanan indefensa Aruba i Bonaire. Piratanan mas conocí pa nan crueldadnan tabata Juan Antonio Dias de la Rabbia cu a destrui Bonaire, i Balthazar Carion cu na varios ocasion a horta mashá catibo i animal na Aruba, i hasta a laga mata na un di e ocasionan vice-commandeur di e isla. Na 1726 cerca islanan di Aves e captan curazoleño Balthazar Lixraven a apoderé di e pirata Dias de la Rabbia, i poco tempo despues Carion a corre mes suerte cu su compañero.

Despues cu na 1725 e minero noruego Paulus Printz a examina St. Christoffelberg i otro lugarnan na Curaçao, Compañía a encargué cu exploracion na existencia di mineralnan na Aruba. Si Compañía no tabata tanto purá pa yama Printz, probab-

lemente lo e por a descubri e piedranan di oro na Aruba. Der su correspondencia cu Cámara di Amsterdam ta muestra claramente, cu e tabatin un gran suposicion, na existencia di mineral den e piedranan di Aruba cu el a examina.

Na 1750 a subleva e tres catibonan di d'Elmina, cu tabata pertenece na commandeur Daniel Nieuwkerk. Nan a mata su ruman-muhé cu su yiu i dos catibo; nan a horta, cada un, un scopet i tur provision di boca cu tabatin na cas di Commandeur i a hui pa den mondi; pero pronto Nieuwkerk i su dos soldá a ataca nan, tira nan mata i quima nan.

Tanto den siglo 17 i den 18 Compañía tabata haci mas pa Bonaire cu pa Aruba. Na esayi a contribui, sin duda, presencia di un salina na Bonaire i e poco distancia, cu ta separa Curaçao for di isla. Ademas, tur barco casi cu ta bini Curaçao ta toca Bonaire, i den tempo di guerra e isla por a presta un gran servicio. Commandeur di Bonaire tabata encargá pa den tempo di guerra, na aparicion di un barco sospechoso, di huma didia i cende candela anochi na punta mas afor i mas alto di isla, cu intencion di avisa barconan for di aleuw di e peligro cu ta existi. Esayi tabata „een brandaris maken”, i na esayi Bonaire tin di gradici number di su cerro di mas alto: Brandaris (254 M.)

Na Aruba i Bonaire no tabata permiti ningun particular establece nan. Te na 1754 a permiti un particular establecé na parti sur di Aruba i a concede tanto terreno, cu lo por sirbié pa planta i cria algun animal, i mes año a tija siguiente juramento pa esnan cu quier a establece nan na Aruba. „Abo, N. N. ta jura:

1. Cu abo, biniendo na Aruba lo bo conducíbo como un fiel ciudadano, obedece den tur loque Commandeur manda, i junto cu otro habitantenan di trabao di Honorable Compañía lo bo yuda limpia poznan; cu di ningun manera bo por haci negocio ni bende nada, o cumpra cerca extranjeronan; i si bo sabi cu otro a haci esayi, di un bez bo mester avisa Commandeur; i tambe si bo sabi cu otro quier haci algo contra isla; cu e terreno cu a concedébo na „precario” bo no por transporté ni bendé, sino entregué na bo descendientenan pa despues di bo morto debolbé na Honorable Compañía.

2. Cu aya bo no por tene coral di animal sin consentimiento di Commandeur.

3. I si bo no a cumpli cu tur loque ta bisá den tur su parti, Commandeur ta na derecho, sin ningun otro formalidad, di quita e terra for di bo i despachábo for di isla”.

Te na fin di siglo 18 residencia di gobierno tabata na Commandeursbaai, pero desde cu gobernador J. R. Lauffer a laga traha un forti na Paardenbaai na 1796, residencia tabata transportá na e bahia.

E number Paardenbaai duná na e bahia, ta obedece na e gran facilidad, cu por a carga i descarga cabaynan di costa spañó o idian, destiná mayor bez pa e isla ingles Jamaica, pa unda tabata bolbe barca nan.

Na 1830 gobernador di Curaçao Dr. I. J. Rammelman Elsevier a haci un biahe di inspeccion na Aruba, i a duna un fiesta pa empleadonan alto i algun habitante. Na e ocasion Commandeur di isla a participa Gobernador, cu, como te ainda e ciudad situá na Paardenbaai no tin number, lo ta mashá agradable pa habitantenan di Aruba, si na e ocasion solemne aqui, lo gusta Su Excelencia di duna ciudad un number, i na e ocasion capital di Aruba a recibi e number di „Oranjestad”.

Sucesonan histórico notable no a tuma lugar na Aruba; solamente na Agosto di 1792 commandeur Borchard Speght i algun soldá a defende isla contra un ataque anochi di un fragata ingles na mando di Edward Hamilton, cu despues a hui largando hopi morto.

Na Julio di 1824 gobernador di Curaçao P. R. Cantzlaar a recibi dos carta di Commandeur di Aruba, anunciando cu a haya oro na e isla, na forma i estado di e pidanan, cu a acompaña e promer carta, lo que ta duna di conoce, cu probablemente tin un mina di oro na Aruba. Inmediatamente Gobernador a manda su ayudante, capitan van Raders aya, cu encargo di haci un exámen. Dia 4 di Agosto Gobernador mes a bay Aruba, acompaña di secretario di gobierno W. Prince, capitan H. J. Abbring, comandante di milicia J. F. W. Gravenhorst, un sergeant, dos coprá, binti homber i dos cañon.

Oro na Aruba tabata descubri bao di gobierno di commandeur Jacob Thielen, na un lugar yamá Lagabai na Rooi Fluit.

Oro a duna solamente algun afortunado, i no mas sino den e promer añonan, algun recompensa pa tur nan fatiga. Pa tur e compañianan cu a sigui, mina di oro tabata un fracaso.

Na principio tabata haya oro den rooinan na pidanan grandi i chiquito. Despues tabata hayé den e propia mina. Algun bez por a conocé manera bena fini den piedranan.

Cu frecuencia tabata haya pidanan grandi di oro yamá „pepita”. Na 1825, segun „De Nederlandsche West-Indische Eilanden door M. D. Teenstra”, 1836 — 2 d., p. 215, un catibo na Aruba a haya un pida oro mashá grandi i el a trecé pa su shon. E

pida tabatin un tamaño di un queshi di Edam i tabata pisa 32 liber i 8 ons, i tabata bendé na Curaçao cu un comerciante, pa 13.000 peso o 17.333 florin, quende despues di a laga escaminé a mandé na pida-pida na New-York.

No por duna ningun balor na loque e obra aqui ta bisa tocante e persona cu a haya e pida oro, pa motibo, cu di 1824 te 1832, oro tabata vigilá i esclotá pa cuenta di gobierno. E klompi di oro di 36 liber hayá na Aruba, tabata esponé den Museo di Leiden, segun Economische Berichten voor het Staatsdeel Curaçao.

Oro esclotá pa cuenta di gobierno a duna den e promer tres año un 100 kilogramo. Despues di 1832 eseplotación a queda libre pa cada un. Na 1854 a prohibi eseplotacion i a duna un concesion na L. J. de Jong di La Haya; na 1867 e concesion a pasa na Francisco Isala pa un tempo di 35 año pagando 2500 florin pa año.

Na 1869 el a pasa na firma Ricketts di New York, cu a tras-pasé na 1872 na Aruba Island Gold Mining Co. Ltd. Como e compañía no por a trece mingun progreso den minanan el a bandona e concesion na 1900, i e concesion nobo tabata duná na 1908 na Aruba Gold Mining Co. di London, cú tambe a bandoné pa motibo di mal resultadonan.

Cu entrada di Diciembre 1908 a duna na Aruba Goud Maatschappij concesion pa un año. E compañía aqui ta e promer cu por a haci e negocio duna un ganancia. E promer año el a debolbe 25 por ciento dividendo na su accionistanan, i cu un capital di 40.000 florin el a haci un ganancia di 19.000 florin. Pa motibo di guerra na Europa, i no por a haya parti di máquinan necesaria, companía a hayé obligá di suspende tur operacion na 1916.

Lista di algun persona establecí na Curaçao cu a cumpra oro di Aruba. •

David A. Jesurun	5.010	ons
Elias P. Brandao	194	$\frac{1}{4}$
Manuel Romero	101	
Jacob Abr. Jesurun	2.231	$\frac{1}{4}$
A. H. & J. Senior	273	$\frac{1}{2}$
Jacob Moreno	106	$\frac{3}{4}$
Jos. P. Brandao Jr.	177	$\frac{3}{4}$
Moreno & Suares	44	$\frac{1}{2}$
E. & Morris Curiel	12	$\frac{1}{2}$
Diferente otro persona	900	
Total	9.051	$\frac{1}{2}$ ons

Ta sigur cu no ta exagera si bia csu minanan di Aruba a produci mas di 3000 liber di oro.

Si minanan di oro tabata plamá riba enter Aruba, enteramente otro tabata cu minanan di fosfato, cu por a haya solamente rondó di Cerro Colorado i Cerro Colebra.

Na 1874 fosfato tabata descubrí pa J. H. Water Gravenhorst, i na 1881 e mineral tabata explotá pa Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij. Den promer añonan explotacion tabata duna, tanto pa compañía como pa Caja Colonial grandi ventaja. Gobierno tabata recibi 8 florin pa M³ registro di fosfato despachá. Te na 1895 caja Colonial a recibi mas di dos millon florin.

Pa consecuencia di explotación di fosfato na Florida na 1892, i balornan a cominza baha, compañía tabata traha bien pronto cu pérdida, como e tabata obligá di exporta 12000 M³ cada año, i na 1895 cu porfin a bini un cambio den contrato, ainda e tabatin un saldo desfavorable di mas di 100.000 florin riba su cuenta di ganancia i pérdida, cu e no por a hacié desaparece, aunque condicionnan di contrato a bira despues algo mas favorable.

Algun accionista a considera, cu e saldo desfavorable, cu a presenta den cuenta di ganancia i pérdida, tabatin pa causa un error cu tabata existi den bukinan di compañía, i esayí a ocasiona un gran disgusto entre un partida i otro partida di accionistanan. Trabaonan cerca minanan di fosfato mester a para, como e minanan no por tabata explotá cu probecho.

Sin duda, Aruba por ejerce pisquería na mucho mayor escala, i bao di condicionnan mucho mas favorable cu Curaçao i Bonaire. Entre Aruba i costanan enfrente di Venezuela i Colombia ta existi un lamar, cu pa su poco hundo i su riqueza grandi di piscá ta duna ocasion pa ejerce pisquería na gran escala, loque na Curaçao i Bonaire por ta hací solamente na un manera mashá limitá.

E lugarnan unda sâ pisca ta queda principalmente na tur largura di costa West di e isla; na diferente lugar den lamar entre e isla i costa-firme; na Oostpunt; rondó di islanan Monjes; i bao di costa di e península di Goajira.

Flota di pisquería ta compone di diferente elementonan, cu ta: boto tapa grandi i chiquito, canoa di diferente largura i yola di tur tamaño.

E botonan grandi ta na estado di por queda mas tanto tempo for di cas. Esnan chiquito ta queda comunmente mas cerca cas; nan ta sali mainta tempran pa bolbe merdia o atardi na Rancho, nan lugar di ancla. Probablemente, cu den curso di tempo lo a

bini un cambio den e manera di piscá.

E dos sorto di piscá di mas balor, cu sâ piscá den/ e lugarnan cerca cas ta pargo i meru.

Na lamar afó sa coge algun bez berdadero gigantenan: snuk cu ta pisa di 4 te 20 K.G. i di un largura di 60 te 200 cm.; koningvisch di 10 te 20 K.G. i balaú di 60 K.G.; mulato di 70 K.G. i di un largura di 2.75 metro.

Algun tempo pasá a haci un esfuerzo pa trece piscá fresco di Arubá na Curaçao. Aunque a logra di trece algun piscá den ijs na poco cantidad, un exportacion regular na gran escala parece no por a tuma lugar.

E principal productonan di Aruba ta maishi i bonchi, aloë, pinda i dividivi.

Na Aruba e maishi ta yamá „maishi di siete siman” o „maishi di rabo”. Bonchi tin di tanto sorto, cu ta difícil pa yama tur su nomber; esnan mas conocí ta yanchikok, prinses, caranshu, bonofees, marins, yenyé, wowo pretu i wandu. Talbes awendia no ta produci un variedad asina extensa.

Cosecha di pinda mucho bez sâ fracasa pa falta di awa, cu ta mui necesario pa e fruta.

E productu di mas importancia pa exportacion ta aloë. Algun tempo pasá un tercera parti di Aruba tabata tapá cu cunucu di aloë. E ramo di cultura tabata un di e mas importante entrada di Aruba. Na promer lugar pa doño di cunucu, i na segundo pa poblacion, como cortamento di aloë tabata principia justamente na tempo di sequedad, ora cu mayor parti di trahadornan no tabatin trabao ni ganamento. Pero a bini un cambio favorable; pa Aruba a principia un época di grandi adelanto, i aunque tur proyectonan no a realiza pa motibo di guerra na Europa, sinembargo, progreso ta manifesté grandemente na tur parti di e is'la.

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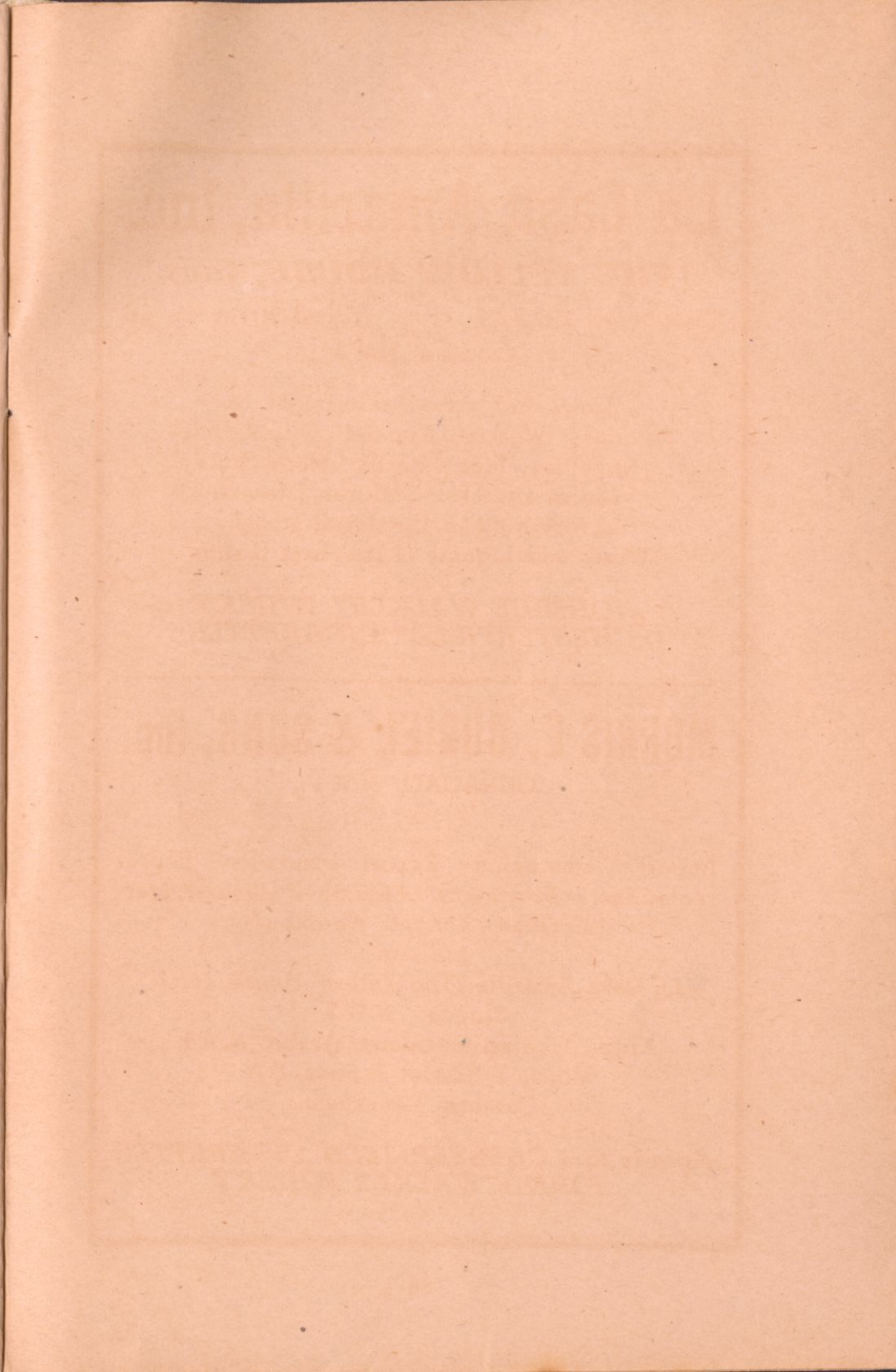
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